

## 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District has prepared this Draft Limited Re-Evaluation Report and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft LRR/SEIS) pursuant to Section 580 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (WRDA 96) which authorizes the Corps to design and implement flood damage reduction measures for the residents along the Lower Mud River. This report focuses on providing flood protection for the City of Milton, Cabell County, West Virginia. In accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the potential impacts to the natural, physical, and human environment associated with a proposed flood damage reduction measure for the City of Milton are evaluated.

The Lower Mud River and the City of Milton are located entirely within the State of West Virginia. Milton lies approximately 19 miles upstream from the confluence of the Mud River with the Guyandotte River. The project area includes about 2 miles of the Mud River and the major tributaries of Johns Branch and Newmans Branch. The drainage area for the Lower Mud River is approximately 263 square miles.

The flood of record for the City of Milton occurred in March 1997. This flood had an estimated return frequency of approximately a 3.7% chance (27-year) flood event, causing over \$23 million dollars in damage (1997 price level). Today, if Milton were inundated by a 100-year flood event, over \$47 million in structure damages could be expected and approximately 651 structures would receive flooding above their first floor elevation. There would be additional damages to public infrastructure and millions more spent cleaning up and repairing the damage from flooding.

Detailed project studies have included consideration of a number of local flood damage reduction alternatives including, tributary impoundments, floodwall/levee combinations, channel improvement and various nonstructural measures. As part of the study, various alternatives considered were found to be effective for protecting Milton from flooding. Alternatives considered include a floodwall, levees, floodproofing and floodplain evacuation options. More detailed evaluations determined that none of the alternatives were economically feasible except a protective levee on the north bank of the Mud River and a protective levee with a channel relocation. These two alternatives along with the No Action alternative have been evaluated in detail and the results documented in this report and SEIS.

In addition to evaluating the flood damage reduction measures for Milton and the surrounding area, the natural resources that will be impacted by these measures have been examined. Potential significant impacts from the levee alternatives include those to aesthetics, aquatic and terrestrial resources, and socioeconomic resources. Social impacts associated with construction of a project include principally traffic and noise impacts, economic gains and losses, impacts to community cohesion due to acquisition of residences and businesses to construct a project, and aesthetic impacts from the visual prominence of the levee in the community. This document includes a detailed description of the existing environment at Milton and describes impacts anticipated from the final flood damage reduction alternatives considered, including the No Action alternative.

The City of Milton will serve as the non-Federal sponsor for the project. Based on Section 103 of Public Law 99-662, the non-Federal share has been calculated to be 25% of the total project cost of \$38.7 million, or \$9.7 million. The City will be responsible for obtaining necessary real estate (Lands, Easements, Rights-of-way, Relocations, and Disposal areas, or LERRD) as well as operation and maintenance (O&M) of the completed project. The West Virginia Conservation Agency will participate as a financial partner with the City of Milton for the construction of the project.

The Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) for the Milton Local Protection Project (Milton LPP) is an integrated part of this report. A Public Scoping meeting was held on September 11, 2001 and a second in December 2001 in Milton to gain input from interested agencies, organizations, and the general public concerning the content of the SEIS, issues and impacts to be addressed in the SEIS, and alternatives that should be analyzed. To further provide for the public input, as required by NEPA, this report is being circulated to state and federal resources agencies, interested groups, and the public for comment.